

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

By Yager

A RESOLUTION supporting the establishment of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington.

WHEREAS, Public Law 108-340 “The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act,” signed by President Bush in October 2004, directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), to conduct a study to assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating one or more of three sites named in the study as a unit of the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, the three sites are Oak Ridge Reservation and town site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the Los Alamos National Laboratory and town site in New Mexico; and the Hanford Site in Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Project was a highly significant chapter in America’s history that expanded scientific research, developed new technologies, and changed the role of the United States in the world community; this focused effort, combining military and scientific resources and involving hundreds of thousands of workers at multiple sites, was kept secret and out of public view for the duration of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Project also represents a highly significant and unique chapter in Tennessee History, with tens of thousands of Tennesseans having worked on the effort, which ultimately contributed to ending World War II and saving countless American lives; and

WHEREAS, many beneficial technologies, including nuclear medicine and nuclear energy, have been developed from Manhattan Project era-research conducted in Oak Ridge and the other sites; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Project was managed from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, with roughly sixty percent of Manhattan Project resources spent on facilities in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, with three of the DOE's Manhattan Project "Signature Facilities" located in Oak Ridge, there is no doubt regarding the significance of Oak Ridge to interpreting the scale and importance of the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, because of its unique heritage associated with the Manhattan Project, the City of Oak Ridge received the *Preserve America Community* designation in 2006, a designation developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Department of the Interior, and other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, in support of Public Law 108-340 and its study, the National Park Service undertook an extensive public involvement process, engaging state and local governments, private property owners, interested organizations, and citizens throughout Tennessee and the country; it was noted many times that the National Park Service is the appropriate organization to tell the full story of this highly complex project; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the National Park Service study, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a recommendation in July 2011 for the establishment of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park comprised of resources in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, in the Tri-Cities area of Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the unit would be managed in partnership with the Department of Energy, with the National Park Service management role aligned with its expertise in the areas of interpretation and education; and

WHEREAS, through the Energy Communities Alliance, the cities of Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Richland have worked constructively for many years on historic preservation and heritage tourism initiatives, are fully supportive of the establishment of a "three site, one National Park" concept within their communities, and are committed to creating a "21st Century Model National Park" based on partnerships, innovation, and state-of-the-art technology in this era of fiscal constraint; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we support and concur with the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation for the establishment of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park comprised of resources in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, in the Tri-Cities area of Washington State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Congress of the United States to expeditiously designate the Manhattan Project sites as part of the National Park system, and that the appropriate language regarding the roles and responsibilities of the two federal agencies and the three local governments be included in the legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.